

NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—CINDERELLA—
BONA FIDE TRAVELLER.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—FRESH ASSURANCE AND
THE MODERN-TOU GAL-HAVY MAN—GANE LOON
FIVE WILKINSONS.NORTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—BALANCE OF
CONSORT—ELIZA DAVEN—WOMAN'S LIFE.WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway—TOWN AND COUNTRY
THE CRUISE.METROPOLITAN THEATRE, Broadway—EQUINESTRIAN
PERFORMANCES—AFTERNOON AND EVENING.AMERICAN THEATRE—Afternoon—Hudson. Evening—
BLACK AND WHITE—EQUINESTRIAN PERFORMANCES.WOOD'S MENSTRUALS, Mechanic's Hall—472 Broadway
BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 330 Broadway—Bucc.
NEW'S BROADWAY—THEATRE.DONALDSON'S OPERA HOUSE, Hope Chapel, 718 and
720 Broadway.

New York, Saturday, February 3, 1855.

The News.

The draft of a new city charter, to take the place

of the present one, will be found in another

part of this paper. It is the result of the

labors of a majority of the members of the Board

of Aldermen. At an informal meeting, held on Saturday

evening last, a special committee was appointed

to draw up a charter which should embody the

best features of a century and a half of

the city's history. The committee, composed of

Messrs. Williams, Ely, Varian, Voorhis, and Hendrick, composed this

committee. They reported the result of their labors to

a special meeting on Thursday evening, when sixteen

of the twenty-two Aldermen were present. The

document, as given in another column, was unanim-

ously adopted, and will be strongly urged upon the

Legislature. It is feared that body it becomes a

fixed fact, as the usual clause submitting it to the

people was struck out, it having been decided that

no legislative act can be thus legitimized.

The political excitement at Albany is rapidly

increasing to fever heat. The members of both

branches of the Legislature have dropped all other

business, and turned their attention to the Senatorial

question. Yesterday, in the Assembly, the debate

on the resolution defining the qualifications of a

United States Senator was resumed. But this was

merely a feint; the real question being the

fitness of Wm. F. Seward for the post to which he

has been nominated by the caucus of his political

adherents. We publish a sketch of the debate, under

the proper head, from which may be gathered an

idea of the intense feeling that prevails in opposition

to the Whig and Abolition candidate for United States

Senator. That Seward secured his nomination

through fraud and corruption was openly charged on

the floor of the Assembly; and that many of the

participants in the whig caucus acted contrary to

pledges given with all the sanctity of an oath was

not denied. The debate will be resumed to-day, and

will no doubt be continued until Tuesday—the day

appointed for the election.

Our correspondence from Washington, published

under the telegraphic head, opens a rich place to

the prospecting politicians of this metropolis. The

resignation of Col. Schell, and the purging of

the Custom House of its corps of shoulder-biting

soft-shelled bruisers, and the appointment of

respectable citizens in their stead, are the novelties of

the season.

Yesterday was private bill day in Congress, and

but little of general interest transpired. In the

Senate Mr. Mallory's bill providing for reforms in

the personnel of the naval service was considered

and passed. Officers out of the line of promotion

and upon leave of absence are to be placed on the

reserved list, and those incapable of performing

active duty are to be provided for. The bill for the

relief of the claimants of the private brig General

Armstrong was discussed by Mr. Benjamin, who

opposed the grant on the ground of the danger of

the principle involved. Messrs. Seward, Bayard

and Clayton advocated the cause of the claimants;

but without taking the question the Senate ad-

journed.

In the House yesterday the bill remitting the

duties on goods of Messrs. Belden & Co., confiscated

in Mexico, was passed. In Committee of the Whole

thirty-six private bills were perfected and favorably

reported on; but when the committee rose it was

discovered that the House was without a quorum,

and an adjournment took place, leaving the pro-

cessors of private claims to dance attendance for an-

other week.

Cotton was active yesterday, and the sales en-

hanced about 5,000 bales, including 1,500 bales

on the spot and 3,500 in transit, indicating a specu-

lative movement. The market closed at full prices.

The movements in another leading staple have not

been without interest. We allude to tobacco. The

Eastern war has exercised no unfavorable influence

on its value, and strongly remunerative prices have

ruled for a year or two past, while the stock in this

market is less than it has been at the same period

within three years past. On the first of February,

1855, we had a stock of 8,905 hhds., 8,709 of which

were Kentucky; in 1854, 7,023 hhds., of which

6,822 were Kentucky; in 1853, 3,300 hhds., 3,070

of which were Kentucky; being little over one-half

of the previous year. Prices range from 50c.

to 11c. per pound, which may be considered

high rates, and quite profitable to producers. In

earlier times, Virginia, Maryland and North

Carolina produced the chief supplies; but the

great bulk now grown in this country is produced

beyond the Alleghany mountains, and chiefly in

Kentucky and Missouri, with some in the adjoining

States, nearly all of which is styled in this market

under the general name of "Kentucky." The finest

quality produced is in Mason county, Kentucky,

near Mayville. The Continental people are the

largest consumers for this staple, and that used in

France is a government monopoly, and is purchased

in the United States annually by agents of that

government. Were the restrictions with which its

introduction into foreign countries are saddled

abolished, its consumption would be greatly in-

creased. Within a few years the cultivation of an

inferior quality, known in this market as seed leaf,

used for cigar wrappers, has greatly increased in

Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and the New Eng-

land States, and some exports of it have even been

made to Havana, to be used by sugar manufac-

turers. Flour and grain were without marked

change. Old mow pork was rather easier. To

Liverpool and to the Continent provisions were

going forward to a fair extent at previous rates.

To the former, rates for cotton, grain, and sugar,

rather favored shippers.

Our readers will find in another column an in-

teresting account of a scene which occurred yester-

day afternoon on board the Empire City, a far

more previous to her departure for Havana. A

Cuban youth, named Frank Hernandez, was shown

leaving this country, in company with Mr. Cristobal

Carroll, on his return home, when his wife, Mrs. J.

Joseph Hernandez, made his appearance on board;

and on finding that it was against his wish he

was going, brought him ashore, and the vessel pro-

ceeded on its way without him.

We have news from Liberia to the 15th November.

As an evidence of the progress of civilization,

the inhabitants were forming political party combi-

nations in opposition to the election of President R.

betrie, who has already served four terms, and who

has come to be regarded as a sort of old fogey. The

propriety of introducing the Maine liquor law, by

legislative action, created considerable discussion.

The corner stone of a new Episcopal church, designed

to be the largest in the republic, was laid with all

the ceremonies, at Monrovia, on the 30th October,

and a schooner of thirty-five tons, the largest ever

built in Liberia, was launched on the same day.

The natives of Accra, on the Gold Coast, had

been severely punished by the

British ship of war Scourge, which completely de-

molished the towns of Christeburg Port and

Abadia.

Judge Roosevelt granted an order yesterday in

the Supreme Court, declaring the Empire City Bank

insolvent, and vacating the assignment made by the

bank. He also directed the injunction to remain

permanent, and appointed the United States Trust

Company receiver.

A verdict of \$300 was awarded the steward of the

steamer George Law yesterday, in the Marine

Court, before Judge Thompson, for false imprisonment.

We have received letters and files of papers from

Havana to the 28th of January. There is nothing

new from the island. Felix and Estrampas were

still in prison, waiting to hear their doom—uncer-

tain till whether it will be death or bondage.

Preparations, it is said, are being made to strengthen

Havana with additional forts, so as to surround the

city entirely with fortifications. The letters of our

correspondents are published elsewhere.

Prospect of Seward's Re-Election—The Know

Nothings—The Slavery Question—Danger

Impending.

The Seward Legislative caucus of Thursday

evening last, at Albany, indicates the re-elec-

tion of the wily demagogue to the United States

Senate. The caucus numbered just one-half of

each house, and having, after the first ballot,

made the nomination of Seward unanimous,

their decision is equivalent to an election, lack-

ing one solitary vote. The election of the caucus

was, no doubt, *bona fide*, and the man wanting,

and several other, we apprehend, were among

the absentees. Something more, therefore,

than rough conjectures and loose estimates on

the part of the opposition will be required to

prevent the re-election of Wm. F. Seward on

Tuesday next.

We are not much surprised at the result of

this Seward caucus, notwithstanding the nume-

rous representations made to us from Albany

of a reliable opposition anti-Seward majority

in the Assembly. We have all along had our

misgivings upon the subject. We knew from

all their antecedents, that the silver grays, how-

ever bitterly they may hate and denounce the

ascendancy of the Auburn demagogue, were not

to be trusted. They want backbone, are feeble

in the knees, and have never exercised the

moral courage of striking the dread enemy

where the hand dealing the blow might be

detected. He uses them when wanted, or kicks

them out with impunity when they stand in

his way. A feeble clique of puerile grumblers

are the silver grays.

We have also distrusted the rough estimates

of the opposition on another account. They

have overlooked in the Assembly the influences

of those outside Know Nothing movements of

Utica and Schenectady, which Seward has

adroitly used to embarrass and weaken the ac-

tion of the Order against him. With anything

like an equality of raw materials to begin with,

Seward and Thurlow Weed are hard to beat in

pipe-laying and in outsidings accessible tim-

bers, tide-waiters, and needy spottsmen. In

this case, too, having absolute command of the

State plunder, we may rest assured that they

have been using it to the best advantage.

It may appear to the Know Nothings in other

States very extraordinary that Seward, after

his formal speech against the Order in the

Senate, should contrive, without a recantation,

to steal into their camp in this State, and make

a satisfactory diversion from their forces in his

favor. But it is an old game of his to seize

upon every new political movement—anti-

slavery, or anti-Popery, or no matter what—

and in some plausible disguise to appropriate

it to his purposes. Thus he contrived this

Know Nothing defection, which has not only

resulted in the outside councils at Utica and

Schenectady, but which has thrown into the

Assembly some fishy conservatives, whose votes

upon this Senatorial question may lead to the

breaking up of the Know Nothings as a great

homogeneous national party, and to the most

dangerous and calamitous revival of the anti-

slavery agitation.

The caucus vote for Seward at Albany looks

very much like treason in the Know Nothing

camp. Where there is treason there is danger,

in all cases where the defection holds the

balance of power. In this instance the danger

to the Know Nothings threatens their very

existence. The election of Seward is the test

question of their conservative principles, and

of their prestige of invincible strength. His

success demoralizes all their late Northern con-

servative triumphs, and throws this new Ameri-

can party back upon Virginia and the South as

a part of the Seward anti-slavery coalition it-

self. Re-elect him, and his sectional organiza-

tion and disunion anti-slavery programme con-

tinues—the anti-slavery agitation receives a

new impulse, which may possibly overcome the

non-intervention policy of the Know Nothings

in all the Northern States, Massachusetts not

excepted. There is evidently a Know Nothing

split at Albany upon Seward's re-election, and

under the circumstances, it is significant of a

general demoralization and disorganization of

the new party. This is the great object of

Seward, and the immediate necessity of the

Pierce administration.

We are aware that the tools of the Cabinet

contributed their mite towards the election of

a Seward Assembly—the hopes of the adminis-

tration manifestly hang upon Seward's suc-

cess; but his election will be none the less

disastrous to the Know Nothings and the peace

and harmony of the Union. Cast him out of

the Senate, either by this or (in holding over

the election) by the next Legislature, and the

coast is clear from Maine to Texas, for an

overwhelming triumph in '56 by the Know

Nothings. Let Seward be re-elected, and the

Northern victories of the Order will be but as

empty battles of the Alma and the Inkermann,

with a crushing defeat at Sebastopol. A cam-

paign will have been lost. The anti-slavery

coalition will take courage—they will proceed

further to demoralize the Know Nothing army

by corrupt bargains for the plunder—suspicious

and hostility to the order will extend in the

South, and by the year 1856 the present Union

and national party and platform of the Know

Nothings may be swallowed up in a sectional

disunion contest upon the slavery question.

Clouds overhang the sky at Albany, sur-